

ASTER LONGIFOLIUS Lam. Border of woods in moist sandy soil, Enfield (*R. W. Woodward & C. H. Bissell*). Known from but few localities in the state.

GNAPHALIUM PURPUREUM L. Rocky pasture near Great Hill Pond, Portland (*R. W. Woodward & C. H. Bissell*). Previously known only from the southeastern corner of the state.

AMBROSIA PSILOSTACHYA DC. Roadsides in Bridgeport and Stratford (*H. S. Clark*). Doubtless introduced from the West.

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT.

## NOTES ON CERTAIN LEGUMINOSAE.

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THE recent note by Mr. Walter Deane, in RHODORA for November, 1910, has prompted me to publish the following information in regard to *Desmodium canescens* (L.) DC. and other species of the same family.

*Desmodium canescens* (L.) DC. I first collected Sept. 4, 1898, in Natick, Mass. The station at that time contained but a few vigorous plants. It is on Woodland Street, between Natick and South Natick, in gravelly soil. The oak woods in the vicinity are full of various other more common species of *Desmodium* and *Lespedeza*. I revisited the station in August, 1907, and again, Aug. 29, 1908, the latter time with Messrs. J. R. Churchill and H. A. Purdie. We found that the plant had spread considerably, occupying both sides of the road for a rod or more. The plant seemed flourishing, but on account of the dry season had produced but little fruit.

*Lespedeza capitata* Michx., var. *velutina* (Bicknell) Fernald, I have collected but once, in dry sand at Pelham, N. H. It is a very definite variety, and the name is well chosen, for its soft tomentum is entirely different to the touch, from the silky or glabrate forms of the type. The date of this collection was Oct. 11, 1902.

*Vicia tetrasperma* (L.) Moench. grows abundantly in the edge of oak woods near the salt marsh at East Weymouth, Mass. It had already begun to fruit at the time of its collection, June 6, 1908. I have found it beside the sea at Castine, Me., and on a railroad em-



bankment at Cumberland, Me., where it was first discovered by Mr. E. B. Chamberlain (RHODORA, vi. 195).

*Vicia hirsuta* L. I found on July 4, 1898, in moist woods on the World's End farm at Hingham, Mass. It is not included in Thomas T. Bouvé's very comprehensive flora of Hingham.

*Vicia villosa* Roth. Mr. W. P. Rich and I, while collecting in Marshfield, Mass., July 3, 1910, came across what we supposed to be luxuriant specimens of *V. Cracca* L. They grew in a dry field which had evidently not been in recent cultivation. Study of the pressed specimens shows them to be *V. villosa* Roth., easily distinguishable by villous stems, peduncles and leaves, and more vigorous growth. In *V. Cracca* the flowers are 10–12 mm. in length, in this species 13–16 mm. The pods, too, are larger, in my specimen 3.2 cm. long by 1 cm. wide.

*Cassia marilandica* L. I collected this species Sept. 3, 1902, in Chelmsford, Mass. It grew by the roadside near a brook, and had probably escaped from cultivation, as there is a house near. The place has been mowed in recent years, and I do not know whether the roots still persist or not.

*Trifolium dubium* Sibth. I first collected this at Hyannis, Mass., June 15, 1909. It is very abundant there. This year I found it very common on Nantucket, and also at Harwich. Mr. F. S. Collins, in RHODORA xi. 131, speaks of this plant as not infrequent in Eastham. This species seems to blossom a month earlier than its nearest relative, *T. procumbens* L. It is very slender, with few-flowered heads 6–8 mm. in diameter. Apparently this is identical with the little shamrock plant of which the city florists raise so many specimens for the early spring trade.

HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

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BARTLETT'S DIOSCOREAE OF THE UNITED STATES.—Bulletin 189 recently issued by the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, contains matter of taxonomic interest not usually looked for in the publications of a bureau more especially devoted to the economic phases of botany. It is entitled, "The Source of the Drug Dioscorea, with a consideration of the Dioscoreae found in the United States. By Harley Harris Bartlett, Washington, 1910." The subject is treated under two heads. "Taxonomic history of the Dioscoreae of the United States," and "The Drug Dioscorea."